

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-3. These sheets, which includes Figs. 1-3, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1-3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 have been amended to better define that a selection device is provided to select that one of the first focusing system and the second focusing system is independently operative or that both of the first and second focusing systems are operative together and that when the first focusing system is selected to be operative independently, or the first and the second focusing systems are selected to be operative together, a characteristic value of the edge enhancement processing device is set to be a predetermined value, and when the second focusing system is selected to be operative independently, the characteristic value is changed so that an edge component is emphasized. Support for these amendments can be found at page 6, line 12 to page 7, line 1, and at page 10, lines 4 to page 13, line 3, for example. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The outstanding Office Action presents objections to Figs. 1-3, a rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nonaka et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2005/0031330, Nonaka) in view of Kyuma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,883,666, Kyuma), and a rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nonaka in view of Kuga et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,975,726, Kuga).

The outstanding objection to Figs. 1-3 is respectfully submitted to be overcome by the present amendment that provides replacement sheets with new Figs. 1-3 that include labels for all of the illustrated boxes. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nonaka in view of Kyuma is traversed. In this regard, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite that “a selection device configured to select that one of the first focusing system and

the second focusing system is operative or that both of the first and second focusing systems are operative together.” These claims have also been amended to emphasize that “an edge enhancement processing device” is provided “to emphasize an edge component of an image signal of a photographed image obtained by photographing said object” and that this emphasizing of the edge component is what is changed when the election device selects the different focusing systems to be operative alone or together.

As neither Nonaka nor Kyuma teach or suggest these claim features whether they are considered alone or together in any proper combination, there has been no *prima facie* case of obviousness established. See MPEP §2143.03. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted to be in order.

Turning to the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nonaka in view of Kuga, this rejection is similarly traversed.

Just as Claims 1 and 2 were amended to recite that “a selection device configured to select that one of the first focusing system and the second focusing system is operative or that both of the first and second focusing systems are operative together” is included, so is Claim 3. Claim 3 has been further amended to emphasize that the “digital filter” is included in “an edge enhancement processing device” that is provided “to emphasize an edge component of an image signal of a photographed image obtained by photographing said object” and that this emphasizing of the edge component is what is changed when the election device selects the different focusing systems to be operative alone or together.

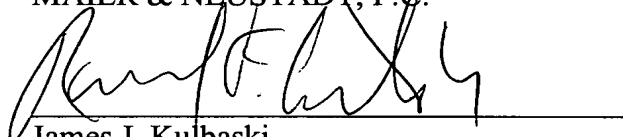
As neither Nonaka nor Kuga teach or suggest these claim features whether they are considered alone or together in any proper combination, there has been no *prima facie* case of obviousness established. See MPEP §2143.03. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted to be in order.

Application No. 10/725,401
Reply to Office Action of 03/02/07

As no other issues are believed to remain outstanding relative to this application, it is believed to be clear that this application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to this effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Kulbaski', is written over a horizontal line.

James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440

I:\ATTY\RFC\24\246149.AM.DOC